the Link

Concordia University
Montreal, Quebec

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CUSA exec says...

'$48 health plan not necessary'

by Heidi Modro

Students are being railroaded into voting for a $48 per year health insurance plan they don't need, according to CUSA's student life vice president Hernani Farias.

In a referendum organized by CUSA that begins Tuesday, students will be asked whether they want to pay $48 extra next year to be part of a group insurance plan involving all Concordia full-time students.

"No one knows what this whole thing is really about," Farias said.

"There has just not been enough organization and enough publicity both positive and negative about the plan to warrant the huge investment this will be for Concordia students."

Students would contribute about $300,000 to the plan if they vote 'yes' in the referendum, Farias said.

"Students will be casting a blind vote in the referendum if they don't get better information about this whole health plan."

The insurance plan guarantees coverage of some medical services not included under medicare.

The policy would pay 80 per cent of the cost of medical prescriptions, dental expenses due to accident, and the extraction of wisdom teeth. It would also cover the cost of ambulance transportation, wheelchairs and would compensate students for the loss limbs or sight.

The plan would be compulsory for everyone except those already covered under another superior health insurance plan.

Rob Cave of Les Courtiers Cave-Malatesta, the company that would represent Concordia students, believes that his insurance plan is the best money can buy for students on a small budget.

"This is the same type of plan that has existed for thirty years across North-America," he said. "It is the wave of the future for university students. It costs less than one dollar a week."

"If he (Farias) thinks it's not good enough it's because he hasn't scoured the market to see how much it would cost individually to get the same level of coverage."

But Farias said students should be given the right to opt out of the plan if it doesn't suit them.

"You have to remember you're dealing with people who are between the ages of 20-30 years who are for the most part healthy and covered under medicare," he said. "There is right now no opting out process. I have yet to see a form drawn up or a system put into place to service this new plan."

The health plan has been the pet project of CUSA co-presidents Nick Woollard and Andrew Madsen, but it has not been approved by the CUSA's board of directors.

Normally, placing an item on a referendum ballot requires the signature of 500 students or approval of the board. But because the board has not achieved quorum since before Christmas, Madsen and Woollard made the decision.

Woollard defended the plan yesterday, saying it is the best one he could find.

"I think it's a good plan, mainly because I've seen what else is offered to students," Woollard said.

But Farias doesn't agree.

"In terms of coverage, I don't think it is enough. The whole thing is more of a marketing package than a health package because a lot won't apply to students."

During the referendum students will also be asked whether they agree to the establishment of a Quebec Public Interest Research Group. It would entail a new twenty cent per credit student levy, which would be refunded upon request.

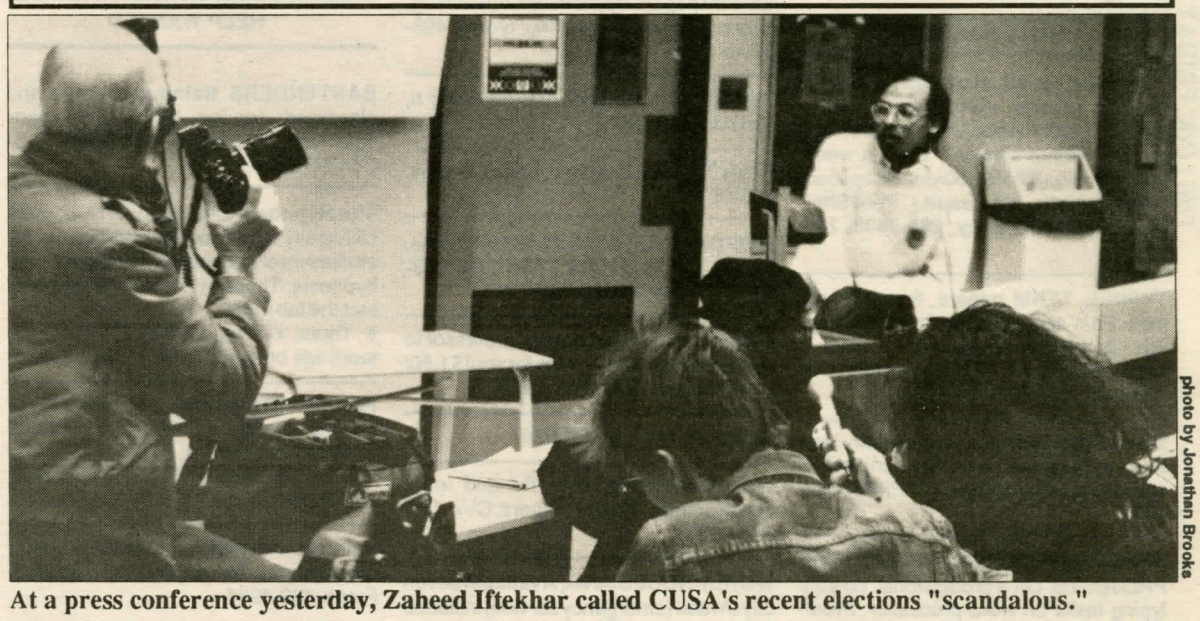

photo by Jonathan Brooks

At a press conference yesterday, Zaheed Iftekhar called CUSA's recent elections "scandalous."

Election controversy heats up

by Scott McCulloch

The results of last month's CUSA general elections are still mired in controversy as candidates continue to sling accusations at one another.

Earlier this week two complaints were filed with CUSA's judicial board about two co-presidential teams who allegedly tried to buy votes in the elections.

At a press conference yesterday candidate Zaheed Iftekhar squared off against CUSA chief returning officer Robert Douglas. They exchanged widely opposing viewpoints on the running of the recent elections.

In his opening statement Iftekhar called for the annulment of the election because of its "scandalous nature."

"It is a disgrace to democracy. This is corruption by any definition," he said.

Reiterating earlier statements he made in a letter to the judicial board, Iftekar charged that CUSA co-president elect Melodie Sullivan offered money to co-presidential candidate Didier Pomerleau to have his team drop out of the race.

Pomerleau told *the Link* this week that he was approached by Sullivan to strike a deal during the election campaign.

He said he taped a later conversation between himself and Sullivan.

Sullivan flatly denied his charge, saying that it was Pomerleau who approached her about a deal.

"Didier (Pomerleau) proposed to me and Shawn that he would drop out if we would pay him back for all the election expenses incurred," she said. "We said no."

But on the tape, which Iftekhar played at the press conference, Pomerleau is heard telling Sullivan that he will drop out and campaign for the team of O'Hara and Sullivan if she reimburses him the $150 that he had already spent.

After discussing the deal, Sullivan replied, "Obviously we're going to have to consult with Sean (O'Hara, her running mate); he should be here but as far as I'm concerned, it's absolutely yes."

Guy Beliveau, whose team placed second in the elections, dismissed the bribery allegation as irrelevent.

"Even if Sullivan did try to bribe someone, it didn't effect the results of the election," he said.

"It has definite moral and ethical implications but they won the election fair and square and that's all there is to it."

Douglas, who also said the taped conversation between Didier and Sullivan was irrelevant because O'Hara was not present during the meeting, continued to downplay Iftekar's complaints on the way the election was run.

He also accused Iftekhar of campaigning during thevoting, thus breaking procedural rules.

"I have two polling clerks who will contest to this. He was bringing people to the station," said an angry Douglas.

"The complaints Iftekhar mentioned here are completely ludicrous."

In fact, Douglas said he will fine Iftekhar's co-presidential team for "election irregularities."

"My lawyer has suggested I fine them $250, but I know students don't have that kind of money to throw around," said Douglas.

"I've now decided to charge Iftehkar $100 for the irregularities."

Judicial board chair Lynn Calliste said yesterday that letters will be sent to all the parties involved in the allegations.

"All we have is a formal complaint. We need evidence," Calliste said. "We'll be sending them formal letters."

Amnesty fights death penalty

photo by Ita Kendall

Warren Allmand, MP for NDG riding, spoke to Concordia students last night as part of Amnesty International's campaign to eliminate the death penalty worldwide by the year 2000.

Confrontations continue

by Scott McCulloch

Hernani Farias, candidate in the recent CUSA co-presidential elections, is threatening to sue a student who has accused him of exchanging favours for voter support.

Ra'ad Ra'ad, spokesperson for the Concordia Collective for Palestinian Human Rights (CCPHR) sent a letter to CUSA's judicial board last week accusing Farias of using his position as CUSA physical resources vice-president to offer office space in exchange for votes.

Farias said his lawyer has sent a letter to Ra'ad giving him 48- hours to apologize and retract his letter. Otherwise, Farias said, he will sue.

"If he doesn't retract the statements, we'll take him to court," said Farias. "I'll sue for defamation of character and libel."

Ra'ad said he has no regrets about the accusations and that the CCPHR has decided to "keep the complaint active."

He said he doubts Farias will go ahead with a lawsuit.

"I would strongly doubt that he has all the resources or time to fight me," he said.

"He'll have to fight CUSA. We are a CUSA group. Hernani may be suing the people he works for."

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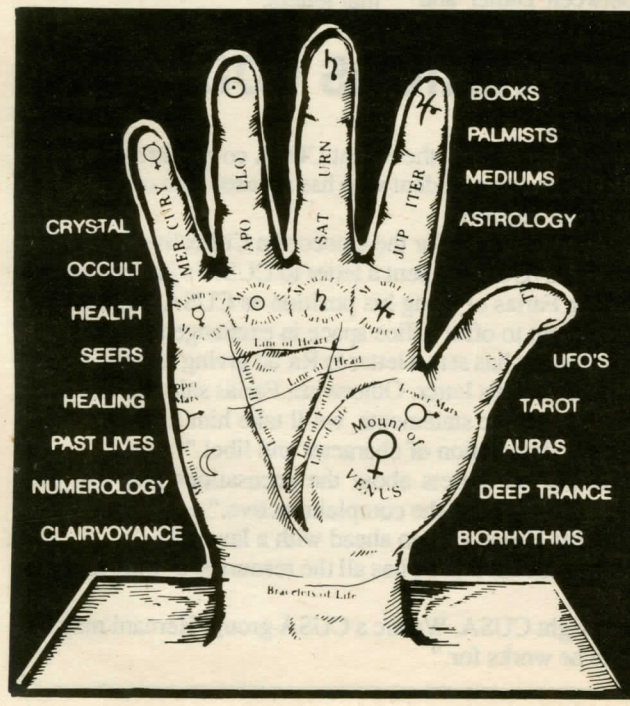

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No notice given

Student guards laid off

by Annie Seattle

Former student security guards are complaining they weren't consulted before the university eliminated their jobs last month.

Former head of Concordia Safety Service, Menahem Neuer, said the administration should have given more consideration to the students before eliminating the service. About 30 student security guards were laid off.

"A lot of students were put out of work with absolutely no notice. The decision was unnecessarily hasty," Neuer said. "I think it would have been only fair to warn us.

"There were bashes planned for February that we were supposed to work, and students were counting on having that income. If we had known, we might have been able to find other jobs."

Dean of Students Brian Counihan said he decided to eliminate student security on the recommendation of the Concordia Council on Student Life.

"I've recommended to the security department that they create an alternative security system where volunteer student monitors could be used alongside the university guards," Counihan said.

According to Counihan, student security was abolished to save money for student groups and because the university feared the possibility of a law suit if there were ever any problems with student security guards.

"By having university security look after what student security used to do, we eliminate the liability of the university if there are ever any problems. It would become the problem of the security company."

CUSA's Vice-President of Student Life, Hernani Farias, said he supported the elimination of student security because it will ultimately benefit student groups.

Even though hourly wages for hiring professional security guards are double what it costs to pay student security, Farias said it would be cheaper for groups in the long run.

The average student security guard earned $4.50 to $6.00 an hour while professionally trained security guards get paid between $8.00 and $12.00.

"It would take fewer of the trained guards to do the same amount of work," Farias said. "Besides if the price tag of insurance and the price of training were tagged together it would still be more expensive to have student security than to bring in the university guards."

"Basically, student security was a just a bunch of big guys that patrolled the beer bashes. They had no formal training on how to cope with emergency situations," he said.

"They weren't covered for liability by the university, so if there was ever a situation at a bash where someone was hurt, the CCSL could be held legally responsible."

He added that a $1 million lawsuit could wipe out the CCSL's $3.3 million budget. "We just couldn't take that chance," he said.

Student groups planning to hold functions at the university will now be required to hire university security guards.

photo by Edward Davey

The best Greek coffee this side of Sparta can be found on the Hall building mezzanine today – the last day of Helenic Week.

Stephen Lewis visits soon

Stephen Lewis, former Canadian ambassador to the United Nations, will be at Concordia March 16 as part of CUSA's Issues in Education Week.

Lewis, one-time leader of the Ontario NDP, will discuss the plight of foreign students in Canadian universities. Education minister Claude Ryan may also be part of a university funding panel.

During the week of March 16, lectures and discussions will focus on problems in education — from accessibility for disabled students to the problems foreign and domestic students face financing their education.

CUSA co-president Andrew Madsen said he hopes students won't be apathetic during the special events.

"We have had general assemblies and hardly anyone would show up," said Madsen recalling problems CUSA has had generating student participation in university issues.

"You might say that that lack of participation sort of prompted the idea for Issues in Education Week. We want to sensitize students to different issues relating to education."

CUSA external vice-president, Brian Jenkins, said the education week might also increase student awareness about Concordia's role in modern education.

"Concordia has unique student programs, and a unique student body," said Jenkins. We want to help demonstrate the importance of education and its availability."

Money raised during the event will go toward sponsoring a foster child's education.

by Joe Hachem

Yours...if the price is right

A cavalcade of fabulous prizes can yours on March 16 — if the price is right.

The Concordia chapter of AIESEC (Association internationale des etudiants en sciences economique et commerciales) will be auctioning off everything from chicken dinner gift certificates to a flight ticket valued at $1,500 to California as part of their annual "Dream Auction".

Money collected from the entry fees will go to Sun Youth. Money raised from the auctioning itself will help fund AIESEC's other events said outgoing AIESEC president Rubina Salim.

"It's non-profit association is helping a non-profit association," Salim said.

AIESEC hosts over 14 events every year including business luncheons, fund raising for the Telethon of Stars tax clinics and the Dream Auction.

The non-profit group was awarded the 'best AIESEC chapter of Canada award this year by the board of directors of AIESEC Canada.

Registration for AIESEC's fund raising dream auction costs $2.

by Andre Perrella

Homeless natives

Living with no address

by Mike Orsini

They come filled with hopes of finding a good life. But for many native Indians and Inuit, that dream is short-lived and before long the dangerous streets of Montreal become their home.

Their struggle for survival is the subject of native filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin's 55-minute documentary, "No Address," recently screened at Concordia.

Her camera explores the world of Montreal's homeless natives. Many of them are forced to resort to panhandling or prostitution to survive. And all of them must face the "racist" Canadian system, according to Obomsawin, who received the Order of Canada in 1983.

"We have extra problems with the language we speak and the way we look," she said.

Obomsawin lived on the Odanak reserve until she was nine, when she moved to Trois Rivieres. It was there that she experienced the feelings of alienation that many natives must grapple with today.

"In Trois Rivieres, we were the only Indian family, living in the poorest section of the town," she said. "This was when I was made to feel that I was poor. It took me a long time to get rid of those feelings."

But, as witnessed in "No Address," Obomsawin has become the exception rather than the rule. Many young natives have fallen victim to a self-fulfilling prophecy, only to plunge into the world of alcohol and drug abuse.

"When for so long we have been made to feel like we're no good and that all we can do is drink, some of us believe this is all we are," she said.

The film's real-life characters tend to play out some of these unfortunate stereotypes.

A dark, sullen man sits huddled in the cold of the abandoned downtown Queen's Hotel talking about his life on the street and his trouble holding down a job. "When you haven't slept all night, it's kind of hard to work all day," he said.

Young native women stand near the Harvey's restaurant in the heart of Montreal's red-light district waiting to turn a trick. One of the women says she's happy with her new life.

"I don't want to go back to my family," she says. "I'm going to stay in Montreal all of my life."

While the film's images may be bleak, Obomsawin said she sees some hope for the "orphans of the city." The key to positive change is "to help the people find themselves and believe in themselves."

"The success only comes from our own people," she said. Obomsawin said many reformed alcoholics are going back to help those in trouble. The Montreal Native Friendship Center is one of the places natives can turn to for a friendly ear.

Last October, with the help of Obomsawin, a temporary women's shelter was opened at the centre. Although there are only five beds, director Anita Pratt said people view the shelter more as a referral center. "It's a place to have someone to relate to, somebody who can understand," Pratt said.

Obomsawin is also enthusiastic about plans to open a new 60-bed shelter in June.

She plans to record a new album soon on he label WaWa Records and hopes to sign native artists to the label. Be it film. poetry, or music, Alanis Obomsawin has an undying commitment to her people.

"It's just my own life experience," she said. I hate injustice and I will always fight against it because I understand how it happens."

photo by Ita Kendall

Documentary filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin was at Concordia to screen her new film about homeless natives in Montreal, No Address.

Groping art

edito:

New writers face the old ... Circle Of Life: you've got to be previously published to get noticed, but you can't get noticed before you get published. *Grope* is here to help writers break that circle.

There's a catch: you have to make the effort to send in your work.

Grope is deliberately soliciting the unknown and the oft-rejected for publication. "We want to stay away from the 'professional-magazine' thing," Fugler says. "We want to stay unpretentious and keep that underground feeling."

Fugler and co-editors Kate Banks, Julia Gaunce, Rhonda Jessen, Pat Machin, and Ingrid Phaneuf are unpublished writers themselves — mostly because they "haven't really tried."

They understand the rejected-writer syndrome.

"There really is a market for the unpublished writer," Fugler says (somewhat ironically). "It doesn't mean your stuff was no good, necessarily, but that that editor didn't want it that day for whatever reason. We'll turn down something if it's blatantly racist or sexist — either return it for tightening up or stick it in a file. But it doesn't happen often."

And despite the large editorial staff, *Grope* tries to stick to the original version of a submission as much as possible out of respect for the writer.

According to the frontispiece of the magazine, *Grope* is attempting "to find something by feeling about in the dark or as a blind person."

Fugler says that *Grope* is "not searching for truth, but for meaning." It wants to be "like a porno magazine, in the plain- brown wrapper...underground".

The editors are working on the third issue. The first one sold out, but the second one struggled, perhaps due to identical brown paper bag packaging. As a result the new issue (due out within two weeks) will feature cover art.

The magazine is also looking into publishing graphic work. "We're looking at doing some illustrated work at *Grope*," Fugler says. "Comic strips in the vein of *American Splendor*, Harvey Pekar's work about his life as a clerk in Cleveland."

Grope originally was to have been a monthly magazine. The editorial staff, composed mostly of students, couldn't deal with the schedule though. Fugler says that "we're making *Grope* bi- monthly because we found working monthly wasn't good for the sanity, and screwed-up our working relationships."

Available at Coles, Ficciones, and The Word, one issue costs $1.50. Any profits go straight back into production costs. (With a circulation of 200 and a cost-per-issue of $260, a sold-out month would only net $40 profit anyway).

Nobody at any of the bookstores knows how popular the publication is. According to a salesperson at The Word, most copies of *Grope* and local anthologies like *Core*, *EdgeDetector*, and *Feh* are often sold to friends and family and even to the writers themselves.

OK, it ain't the *New Yorker*. It ain't even *Reader's Digest*. But if you're interested in reading the poetry and prose of local, talented and as-yet-undiscovered word-artists, take note of *Grope*.

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Grope won't pay you, but goddamit, you'll be published and feeling good. Mercifully, some people still feel that that's what it's all about.

Grope, Box 571, Succ. E, Montreal, Quebec, H2T 3L2. Submissions of 2000 words or less.

This photo and the one below, by Sheilagh O'Leary, appear in *Los*.

WRITE GOOD, WIN BIG!

The first *Link* literary competition, sponsored by Librairie Ficciones, is on.

Submissions are being accepted in two categories: short story and poetry. A first prize of one gift certificate, redeemable at Ficciones, will be awarded in each category. In addition, winners will have their entries published in the April 11 edition of *the Link*.

Deadline for submissions is Monday, April 3 at 5 PM. No entries will be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope.

All manuscripts must include the entrant's name, address, and telephone number.

Submissions can be dropped off at *the Link* office, Room 649, Hall Building, or mailed to:

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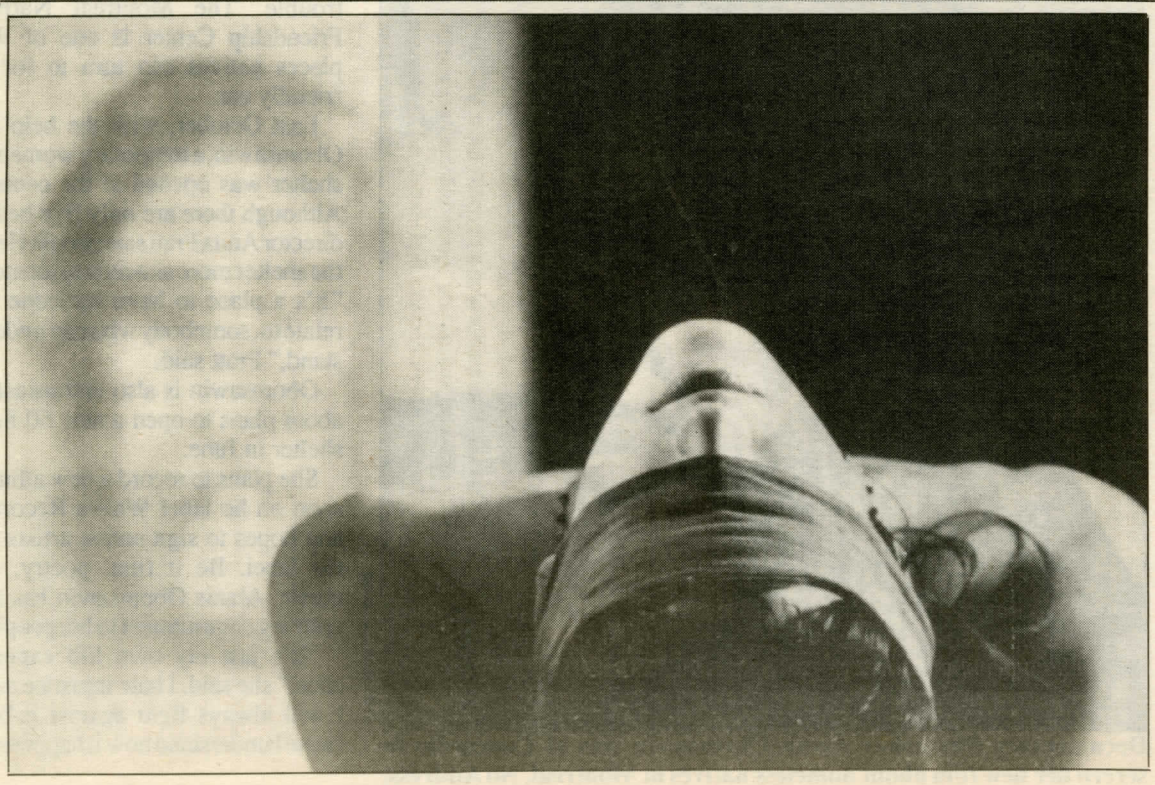


LOS for words

by Phil Moscovitch

LOS is back. The annual Concordia literary journal reappeared this week after a four-year hiatus.

LOS, which takes its name from a William Blake poem, had new life breathed into it this year. The revival was largely the work of Jennifer Boire, a Creative Writing student at Concordia. Boire was frustrated by the lack of publications catering to new writers.

The magazine has been on sale on the mezzanine of the Hall building all week, and will be officially launched at a combination wine and cheese and reading at Mugshots Friday night.

So far, sales have been encouraging. "In the Hall we sold about 25," Boire says. "Plus, I've sold a lot in classes."

The press run is 500. Boire adds, "If we sell 250 I'll be ecstatic. We're just trying to get back half the money CUSA fronted us."

As a club on campus, *LOS*'s complete budget — in the range of $2,000 — comes from CUSA. "All money (from the sales) goes to CUSA," according to Boire.

Boire, the anthology's chief managing editor, was surprised and pleased with the response to the *LOS* call for submissions. Although it is a Concordia publication, *LOS* is open to publishing work by any new writer.

Boire says that "we advertised at McGill, and in various bookstores and cafes." She doesn't know for sure which writers are from where, but says that "I have a sneaking suspicion most of them are from Concordia."

At $4.50 a copy, the cost of *LOS* may appear daunting to some. Boire, however, doesn't believe that the price tag will deter potential buyers. The price is high out of necessity: "We can't go too much lower because it almost cost that much to print".

One of the reasons for the high production costs is the quality of the anthology. Previous editions of *LOS* were more amateurish. Some were "a little bit artsy-fartsy" and "very high-school," Boire says. "We've never had a glossy colour cover before."

As of next week, *LOS* will be available at the CASE office in the Norris building, and, for a one-week trial period, at CUSA. As for other outlets, Boire says that "I have a list of bookstores, but I haven't approached them yet. The Fine Arts Bookstore has decided to take some."

The *LOS* staff are hopeful that their resurrection of this showcase for local creative work will ensure that *LOS* is produced on an annual basis once more.

Mark Rappaport — NY avante garde filmmaker will present his experimental narrative film *The Scenic Route* (1985) in the Hall bldg, H-110, on Friday, March 3, 8:30pm.

Special project — Traqu'enart, Butch Morris Workshop Ensemble, NY artist-in-residence and 10 of Montreal's improvising artists at Chapelle Historique de Bon Pasteur (100 Sherbrooke E, 872-5338) Friday, March 3, 11pm. Free

Band Nite — featuring drones, Ripcordz and The Elementals. A great and cheap party Gertrudes (3480 MacTavish) Saturday, March 4. $2

Brighton Rock — band plays at Club Soda (270-7848) for the best pri on Saturday, March 4, 7:

Art on Film

by Peter Karabatsos

The seventh edition of the International Festival of Film on Art, will unveil various and diverse forms of artistic expression next week.

Presented through a total of 94 films and videos, this unique festival has been designed to cover a wide range of art subjects. It features many of the artists who have impressed and influenced the art world.

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the invention of photography, the festival will open with the world premiere of *Helmut Newton: Frames From The Edge*.

Director Adrian Maben, presents an insightful account of Newton's career through the comments of celebrities that he portrayed: Catherine Deneuve, Charlotte Rampling, Faye Dunaway and Sigourney Weaver.

Other names of interest that will appear on the screen include the likes of Norman Rockwell, George Gershwin, Victor Hugo, and an intriguing look at detective novelist Raymond Chandler.

For a touch of flavour, the festival has been divided into five themes. Creative Crossroads includes a variety of films in and out of the competition. A tribute to The National Film Board, has been arranged in the section "Focus". Films by artists are the theme of "Reflection". "Artificial Paradise" glimpses into Hollywood, featuring the lives of Lillian Gish and Cary Grant. Finally, in "Time Recaptured", attention is directed to the 25th anniversary of the Cinematheque Quebecoise and to the 19th century French artist Edgar Degas.

One of the most appealing films is the documentary *Martin Scorsese: The Last Temptation Of Christ* by Nigel Wattis. The renowned director discusses the struggles he faced in releasing his motion picture and the controversy the film created.

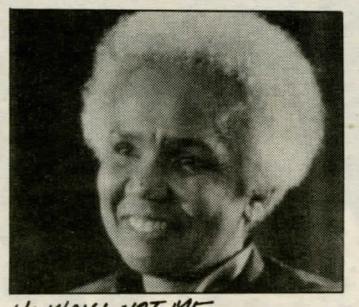
The designs of architecture are frequently represented in the festival. One of the films, *Architecture of Transedence*, by Richard Greenberg, is a visual tour of the cathedral of Saint-Pierre in Beauvais. Intense camera work, set to the music of Philip Glass, highlights the building's gothic nature.

The outdoor sculpture exhibitions of the late Henry Moore, are seen in the short by Murray Grigor.

This diverse crossover of art forms, from 17 different countries, will bring a little extra culture to Montreal on March 7 - 12.

Screenings will be at Cinematheque Quebecoise (335 de Maisonneuve E, 842-9763), Musee des Beaux-Arts de Montreal (1379 Sherbrooke W, 285-1600) and Cinema Parallele (3682 St. Laurent, 843-6001). Tickets are $5 per screening, $30 for a Passport Card (10 screenings) and $60 for unlimited access with the Festival Card.

Portrait by Helmut Newton, whose work is discussed in *Frames From the Edge*. World preimiere during art film fest next week.



NO WAY! NOT ME

Mozambique Benefit- for Umbelezi Secondary School, (good cause and a good time -ed.) features the Hodads, Mere Image, Subdudes, taylor-jane the poet and even theatre sports. At The Alley (3480 McTavish) tonight, Friday, March 3, 8pm. Donations $4.

Films on wimmin — from Quebec and Canada. Over 100 films, on widely varying subjects, will be shown over the next week: March 6 - 10 at the YWCA (1355 Rene Levesque W, 283-4755).

Concordia's journal - of creative writing, *Los*, sponsors a poetry reading and book launch. Come enjoy wine and cheese and hear your friends and fellow students read from their original works at Mugshots (Hall bldg, 1455 de Maisonneuve W, 6th floor) Friday, March 3, 8 - 9:30pm. Free.

L'art au feminin — various artistic work by nine women will be displayed during *Itinéraires Neuf* at le Centre Communautaire Christophe-Colomb (6865 Christophe-Colomb, metro Jean-Talon, 276-6873) March 3 - 12.

Issues and Ethics — Monday nights at NFB Cinema (Complexe Guy Favreau, lower level, 200 René Levesque W, 283-9414) 7:30pm. FREE
Monday, March 6: The Feminization of Poverty Series, one out of every six Canadian women is living in poverty (50% more than men). Part I: *No Way! Not Me*; Part II *For Richer, For Poorer*.

Tapestries — and hand-made paper by *Suzanne Paquette* at Galerie de la Ville (12001 de Salaberry, DDO) until March 17.

CHEAPSTUFF

D'une lecture à une autre

par Lydia Martinez

Un honnête homme est chose surprenante, de plus si cet homme se déshabille devant vous et vous dit, *noir* sur blanc, ce qu'il pense lorsqu'il est sur un lit ... ce n'est plus surprenant mai inoui. Et parfois très drôle.

À la manière des personnages du *Déclin de l'empire américain* , le narrateur de **Comment faire l'amour avec un nègre sans se fatiguer** essaiera d'aller au bout de lui-même, se confiant, se démystifiant, s'inventant aussi. Devant sa machine à écrire, il fera tout (c'est à dire rien) pour se trouver et cela par un regard double, le sien et celui des autres sur lui.

Pourtant, dans ce roman de Dany Laferrière, le rire l'emporte sur tout tandis que le ton se veut moqueur et insolent. La farce fait son effet. Elle déroute et rassure à la fois et montre du doigt.

Malgré la comédie et le sarcasme, il y aura tout de même dans ces pages colorées, des sentiments de solitude, d'inconfort, d'individualisme et en fin de compte, de vide.

Ainsi, le livre qui se voulait fait de fantasme érotiques n'est pas uniquement une parodie sur les prouesses sexuelles d'un noir grand et beau à l'imagination fulgurante, reflet de toute mythologie blanche et raciste.

Dany Laferrière regarde et accuse à sa façon notre société et culture occidentale. Le judéo-christianisme est mis en dérision, mais rien n'est donné en échange, rien n'est proposé, aucun rêve ne vient crever la surface statique qui nous est montrée telle un miroir.

Par conséquent, et c'est bien dommage, Laferrière fait un constat d'échec: le contact et l'échange entre deux cultures totalement différentes (la noire et la blanche) ne seront pas possibles.

À qui la faute? Dans le roman, les femmes (symboles de notre civilisation) ne sont là que pour assouvir un vieux rêve du narrateur, celui de la possession physique (revanche culturelle). Si l'homme et la femme devraient être symbole du devenir et du possible, il n'ent est pas question dans le livre de Laferrière. La femme n'est qu'un objet possédé. La communion n'aura pas lieu.

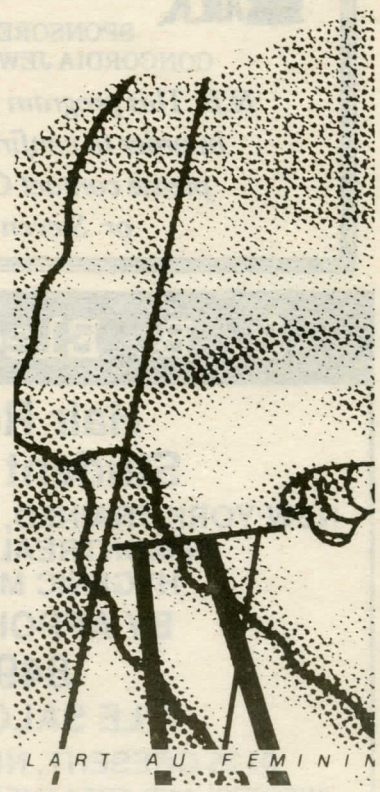
Le personnage principal du roman ne se désire pas de source africaine: il est avant tout un "occidental" (blessé). Il existe donc quelque part un rejet, celui du vieux continent, du passé, de l'histoire.

Mais ce déracinement deviendra du même coup force d'adaptation et en contrepartie, il y aura le courage de dire les choses telles que vécues et ressenties.

Comment faire l'amour avec un nègre sans se fatiguer est un roman à la fois triste et gai, parfois intéressant, regard sur le quotidien d'un homme qui n'a pas peur ni des mots, ni du rire qui "châtie les moeurs" (Bergson).

Un livre qui se lit comme on écoute du jazz, mais qui s'oublie vite et dans lequel on aurait voulu y découvrir le "peau noire, masques blancs" québécois.

En attendant l'adaptation cinématographique (à compter du 3 mars au cinéma Le Parisien). Mais ça, c'est une autre histoire!



New play sticks out

by Jennifer Jevcak

Despite the poor turn out on opening night, Terry Armstrong's *The Sticking Place* five-member cast put on a good show.

The play's theme centres around nuclear destruction and the environment, using humour and melodrama to convey its message.

An original plot enhances the motif. Nick (Anthony Breier) finds himself stuck to a freshly varnished park bench as a result of Elyse's (Jennifer Seguin) clever trap. This parallels the nuclear and environmental predicament facing humanity today.

The play drags in places, particularly during Rutherford's (Larry Copeland) so-called death. The shallow English businessman regains consciousness later, realizing the nuclear fallout that covers him is only the crumbs of a girl guide cookie.

Each character in the one act performance represents a segment of society. Elyse, the passionate environment-conscious individual, stands for those who think, yet don't act. Rutherford represents the money-hungry businesspeople and politicians lost in their own world. The hidden conscience of humanity as well as 'the young and innocent' are also portrayed.

Armstrong, a Concordia graduate, has succeeded in communicating a message of increasing importance in an original manner. Unfortunately, few showed up to hear it.

The Sticking Place will be playing at the Atwater Library (1200 Atwater, 482-3671/489-4603) on Saturday and Sunday, March 4 - 5. Tickets are $5 for students, $6 for the general public.

continued from page 2

tion Buy tickets at Victoria School Gym. 848-3868.

RUMMAGE SALE St Georges Church Parish Hall 1105 Stanley St. Montreal (opposite Windsor Station)THURSDAY, MARCH 9th FROM 2:30 to 6:30 PM.

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Wednesday, March 8th 1989 2:00 p.m.

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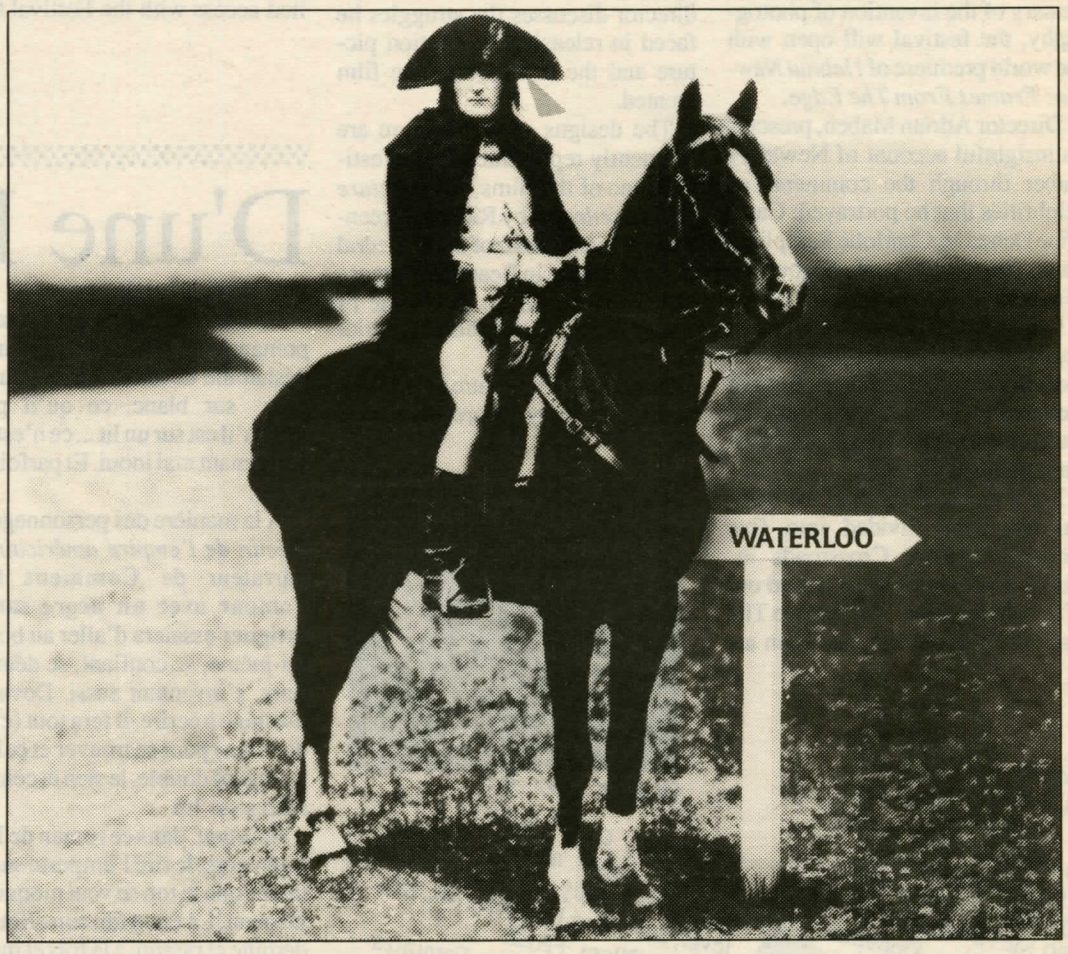

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Letters

Concordian History 101

to the editors,

It is with great surprise that I am compelled to point out a serious example of misinformation in your paper.

One would imagine that subjects unfamiliar to a reporter would be likely to breed mistakes, but I didn't expect a *Link* staff writer to be unaware of the *Link*'s own history — even worse, the editors let it slip by.

Perhaps a lesson in this university's student press is in order.

On page 10 of your "Computer Centre Incident" issue (Feb. 10, 1989), there appears a story entitled "RCMP Seizes Student Press." Fortunately, the reporter's byline was omitted and saved them from the embarrassment of being found out — they didn't do their homework. (The one phone call I made, by the way, didn't take more than five minutes.)

The Georgian is only half of *the Link*. *The Georgian* was founded in the 1936-7 school year at what was then Sir George Williams University.

The Loyola News, the other half of *the Link*, founded in November of 1924, was the student press at Loyola University.

Both publications ceased printing in the spring of 1980. They opened up shop as *the Link* in September — thus your paper's name: the link between the two campuses of what is now Concordia University.

The Paper, on the other hand, has nothing to do with *the Link* or *the Concordian*.

The Paper first published in September 1968 and folded in the spring of 1973 — nine whole years before *the Concordian* hit the stands.

The Concordian, as all the *Link* staff should know, is not a revived student newspaper from the 70s, but a *Link* splinter group. Disgruntled *Link* members, unhappy with the only student paper, split with *the Link* and formed *the Concordian* in January 1984.

I would suggest some quick fact-checking and accuracy lessons for *the Link* staff.

The next time you want to refer to *the Concordian*'s history, please give Frederic Serre, our paper's founder, a call.

It's sad to see that *the Link* staffers aren't aware of their own history, nor are they interested in getting it right when they have to refer to it.

Eve Toomey,
editor
the Concordian

Ed. note: In fact, anyone familiar with the history of Concordia's newspapers would know that the Paper *folded in the spring of 1973 and was renamed* the Concordian *and revived in the fall, as we reported in our story.* The Concordian, *however, was shortlived and published its final issue the following year.*

Murder doesn't justify saving money

to the editors,

In a letter criticizing *the Link*'s February 7th Human Rights Issue, Marshall Rubiroff claims that money could be saved by the imposition of the death penalty on killers and rapists, and used instead to compensate the victims' families.

Although under the present system compensation for the victims is woefully inadequate, civilized societies should never consider murder to justify saving money. Capital punishment is state-sanctioned murder. In the words of former US Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg, "The deliberate, institutionalized degradation to the dignity of the human personality." Each killing adds to a vicious cycle of violence and vengeance, causes another family to be wretched in grief and pain, and detracts society from seeking a more reasonable and humane method for dealing with violent crimes.

Even when the issue of morality is set aside to look at costs, numerous independant studies have concluded that the administration of the death penalty is far more expensive than keeping a prisoner in jail for life. Since 1973, Florida has spent $3.17 million for each prisoner executed -- more than six times the cost of life imprisonment. California has spent a billion dollars of taxpayers' money during the past sixteen years in political and legal battles to reintroduce capital punishment. In addition, the state spends $1 million to prosecute each case, although no execution has occurred there since 1967. Georgia is expected to pay at least $15.7 million on defence counsel alone for death row prisoners in 1989.

Here in Canada, Federal Correctional Services cost $32 per person per year. Homicides account for 0.4% of all violent crimes. Not even a hundred executions would result in significant savings, but just the opposite as rising administrative expenses would burden the public. Besides, as our former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau asked, "Are we, as a society, so lacking in respect for ourselves, so lacking in hope for human betterment, so socially bankrupt that we are ready to accept state vengeance as our penal philosophy?" We must look to our government to protect us from violence, not to promote and practice it.

Neeru Gupta

TESL & ESL move disruptive

to the editors,

The university administration proposes to move the TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language) Centre from its present house next to the Hall building to a high rise on Guy St.

I would like our TESL and ESL students to know that the TESL Centre faculty opposes this disruption to our programs and feel that such a move is impractical, expensive, and unnecessary.

G. S. Newsham,
TESL Centre

The Link is now accepting submissions to our special

Science & Environmental Issue

Deadline: Friday, March 10.

Advertisement misleading

to the editors,

The hypnosis lab at Concordia — which advertises in your student newspaper — offers you $6 for 1 hour to "test your susceptibility to hypnosis."

Then it calls you back sometime later and says: " We would like to test your susceptibility to hypnosis again, and this time for an hour and a half, we'll give you $7."

1 hour = $6
1.5 hours = $7

We would like to hypnotize you again and this time we would like to get you to work longer hours for less money. — That's what it amounts to.

Fuck you!

The study found that there was a relationship between susceptibility to hypnosis and social consciousness.

Bob Moore

A breath of fresh air

to the editors,

I remember now where I have smelled this air before, this air in the Hall building that is so foul. It was summer 1959, the pissoirs of Paris; shortly thereafter the French decided to rid themselves of those "nosesores." Interesting that Concordia should have adopted them — at least the fumes emanating from them — 30 years later.

Dr. J. A. Kornblatt,
Biology Department

Comment

QPIRG referendum coming

'Support student advocacy'

by Concordia Students for QPIRG

Next week (March 7-14) you will be asked to make a decision that will affect your university and Quebec society for years to come. You will be asked, in a CUSA referendum, if you support the establishment of the Quebec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG) at Concordia and the addition of a twenty cent per credit fee to fund this student-run citizen advocacy group. Before making this decision you should ask yourself why there are 28 Public Interest Research Groups (PIRG's) with 145 plus campus based chapters throughout North America. And, would so many PIRGs exist if they were not effective at accomplishing their goals of student empowerment and student involvement in public policy issues?

As our modern world becomes more intricate, institutions such as corporations and governments must expand to be able to deal with the increasingly complex tasks they face. In this situation, the power of individual citizens in comparison to the institutions around them is decreasing. A PIRG is a democratic, student-run organization established by student citizens to balance the interests of the whole society against the narrow forces of business and government bureaucracies. It seems that the only way true participatory democracy can survive in a society of megacorporations and big government is if the citizens organise effectively and use their collective power to force the system to respond to their needs. QPIRG can be your tool to do this.

During our petition drive, many students have asked us what issues QPIRG will work on and how it will allocate the funds. As an organising group Concordia Students for QPIRG have no mandate to make these decisions. When QPIRG is established a board of directors elected by the student membership will draw its agenda from the student body. Other PIRG's on large campuses such as QPIRG-McGill, have selected issues based on surveys of student concerns. This is done to ensure the grassroots student support of QPIRG's goals. As well, when there is a high level of concern about an issue among the students there will be many people who want to volunteer their time and energy to work towards its resolution.

The key elements responsible for PIRG successes are the following:

- Grassroots support and student volunteers who work effectively on public interest issues.
- Proper training to help these volunteers work effectively on public interest issues.
- Continuity provided by the staff and the office (files and resources to help the volunteers and provide stability.

As old students graduate and go on to other things while new students get involved the PIRG will be ready to share with the new groups the cumulative experience of all those who came before them. The PRIG is a centre of expertise that offers training and resources to students who are concerned about public interest issues. As such, students gravitate to it in a mutually beneficial and empowering symbiosis. (The stable structure of the PIRG, combined with student energy enables PIRGs to be highly effective.)

Any member of the Concordia community has any questions or would like to get involved in establishing a QPIRG at Concordia are welcome to our meetings. We can be reached at our Hotline -- 482-5778 or at 2020 Mackay, room P-204, 848-7410. Copies of the draft of the proposed QPIRG constitution, publications produced by PIRGs and audited financial reports from other PIRGs are available in QPIRG offices.

Concordia University
Montreal, Quebec

Volume 9, Number 35
Friday, March 3, 1989

the Link

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Special Sports Supplement

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Christmas Issue.

H-649/848-7405. Ask for Francesca or Minty.

Montreal Daily News

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ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS

THERE SHALL BE A CUSA REFERENDUM VOTE HELD

MARCH 7, 8, 9, 13, 14th

on the following questions (summarized below):

#1 It has been proposed to institute a Health Plan for Concordia undergraduate students. Full-time students would be automatically registered with the plan and Part-time studnts may opt-in for the same fee. The fee would be $48 a year and would cover 80% of prescription drugs, extended health care (even outside of Canada), cost of tutors and tutorials required due to sickness or injury plus other benefits. This plan would come into effect during the 1989-90 academic year. Do you agree?

#2 Do you agree to the establishment of both a Quebec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG) and QPIRG's Concordia University Chapter (QPIRG-Concordia), both of which will operate autonomously of the Concordia University Students' Association (CUSA) and Concordia Univeristy as student-funded, student-directed, research, education and action organizations pursuing the interests of students on issues of public concern and approve of an increase in the student fee of twenty cents ($0.20) per credit for the exclusive purpose of funding QPIRG, realizing the QPIRG undertakes to refund, upon request, this fee to any student who does not wish to support QPIRG?

ANY STUDENT WISHING TO FORM A GROUP TO SUPPORT OR TO OPPOSE EITHER QUESTION SHOULD CONTACT THE CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER AT CUSA ABOUT FUNDS AVAILABLE (H-637 or the Loyola Campus Centre basement).

The following was paid for by CUSA Judicial Board, Feb. 1989.